



From July 2024 (Volume 168)





As we still seem to have very full days and weeks we keep certain times for what we call 'our rituals'

A favourite daily ritual is after my hours daily swim, Lynn also returns from her daily park run and we grab a few magic moments outside. We sit in a pool of sun (weather permitting) at our small table on the patio next to the pond. We have our toast and coffee and hope the sun will last until we have finished.

Lynn looked daily into our pond and declared that our two goldfish were obviously dead as she hadn't seen them for yonks and I consistently answered that they were hiding under the leaves and would appear once we left the table. She was not convinced (and as a matter of fact, neither was I)

After several weeks of this façade I decided to remedy the situation. I was having coffee at the Crewe's Hill Garden Centre and came home with four mini goldfish in a bag. Secretly, I crept into the garden and secreted them into the pond. I then shouted to Lynn "Come quick, I've just seen the fish"



She rushed out, looked excitedly into the pond and on seeing the fish said "Fantasticbut they look smaller, maybe they are baby ones" I replied "they are in water so maybe they have shrunk"

Suddenly she saw two more and realised immediately what I had done.

I was crying with laughter





Some interesting
local facts



Opened in 1935, the Southgate Odeon, which stood on the corner of The Bourne and Tudor Way, N.14., was finally demolished in 1982, making way for 'Hobart House', an office block that has since been converted to residential use.

Developed in the mid-1930's, the Southgate site was an acquisition by Oscar Deutsch's Odeon, with an existing cinema scheme already in place. As such, the new cinema was designed by the prominent theatre architect Bertie Crewe (William Robert 'Bertie' Crewe, 1860-1937), rather than one of Odeon's regular architects, such as George Coles or Harry Weedon.

Southgate was Crewe's only work for the circuit and one of only a handful of cinemas that he designed during an illustrious career. Working in collaboration with Henry G. Kay, he also penned the Regal, Kennington S.E.17., which opened two years after the Odeon and was his last major work before his death.

Construction costs for the new Southgate cinema were reported to be £26,130, with building works completed in the autumn of 1935. As late as September of that year however, adverts were still being placed for plasterers to finish the cinema's 'Art Deco' interior. The auditorium featured the first example in an Odeon of exposed air vents, which featured a unique honeycomb design rather than the traditional decorative metal grilles.

The new 1,438-seat cinema opened on Wednesday 16 October, 1935, showing 'Passport to Fame' with Edward G. Robinson, which had opened in America as 'The Whole Town's Talking' but was renamed for the British market. There were 810 seats in the stalls at ground floor level, with a further 628 seats in the balcony on the first floor.

Carpets and seats were sourced from Turners (W. W. Turner & Co., Ltd.), of Birmingham, who specialised in cinema interiors. In 1935 alone, the company made more than 85,000 seats and 50,000 yards of carpet, winning contracts with Odeon for 14 new cinemas across Great Britain, including Southgate.

On Friday 7 May, 1937, the building made history when the first television set to be installed in a British cinema was opened in the restaurant by the London-born actress, Anne Grey.

All that is left now.....

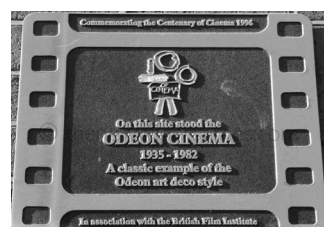
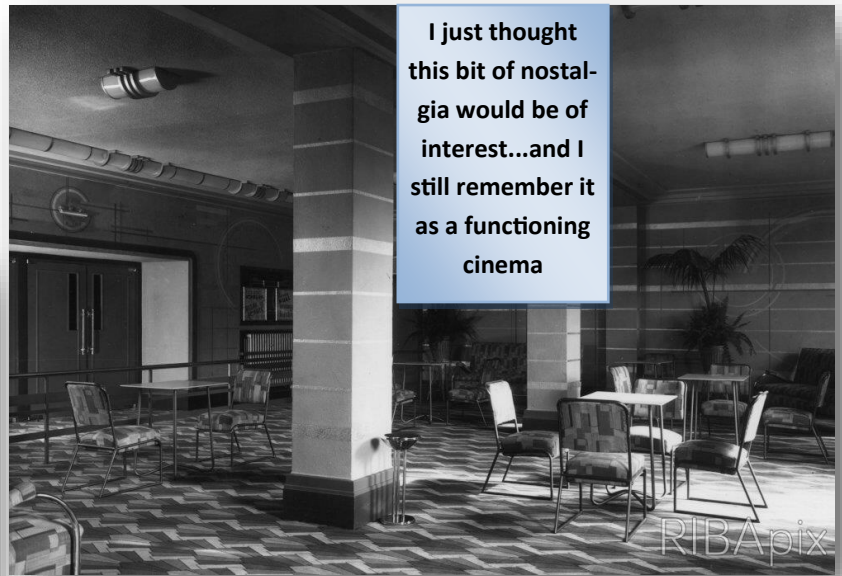




Photo History

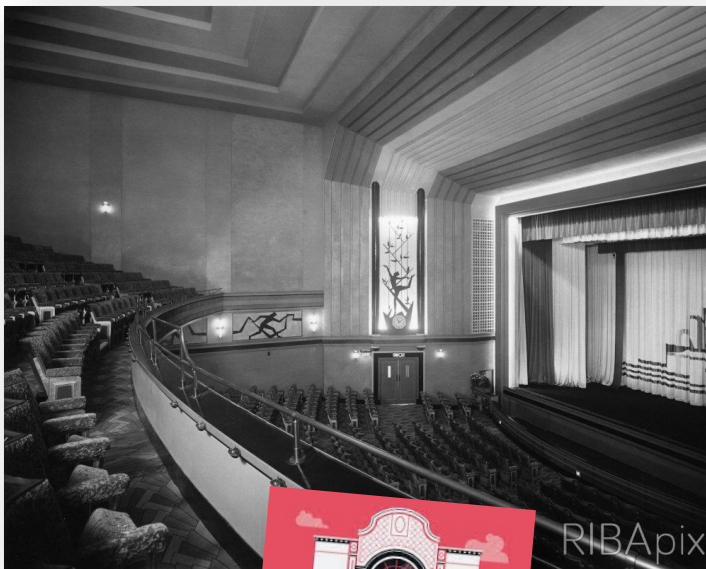


The Bounce
Odeon 1968



I just thought
this bit of nostal-
gia would be of
interest...and I
still remember it
as a functioning
cinema

RIBApix



RIBApix



The Southgate Odeon was closed on 7 September, 1972, by the chain's parent organisation, The Rank Group. Like many other cinemas, it had fallen victim to the rapid post-war decline in attendance levels, which peaked at 1.6bn in 1946 but had fallen to just 157m by 1972, representing a 90% drop.

Three years later, on 27 December, 1975, the site reopened under new independent ownership as 'The Capitol' and survived for another five years, yet with attendance levels continuing to fall, the cinema closed its doors for the final time on 2 January, 1981, and the former Odeon was demolished a year later.

Now standing in its place is 'Hobart House', a nondescript office block that has recently been converted to flats. In a strange nod to Crewe's building of 1935, its replacement echoes the outline of the former Odeon, with its prominent corner tower, but is let down by poor execution and so stands as an awkward attempt at matching the splendour of the original.

A plaque on the front of the new building, installed to commemorate the centenary of cinema in 1996, in association with the British Film Institute (B.F.I.), notes the former premises as 'A classic example of the Odeon Art Deco style', a poignant tribute to Crewe's work. Sadly, Southgate is all the poorer for its loss.



Jose Cristina and
Lynn



Derek and Chris

As I mentioned earlier, Lynn and I have many 'rituals'

On Saturdays we do the Park Run (actually I normally 'walk') but recently I had a knee problem so that prevented me taking part. However, after this, we meet up for a coffee locally with Jose, Cristina and Lynn (GP). Derek and Chris often meet us too and they invited us for coffee at their lovely home locally

Lynn and Cristina



Photo History

Lynn

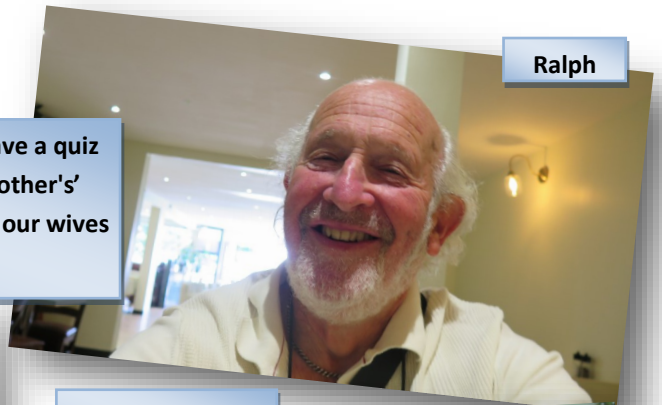


Four of us, swimming buddies have a quiz session every month at one another's' houses but this was the first time our wives had met one another

Michael



Ralph



Bob and Terry



Roy

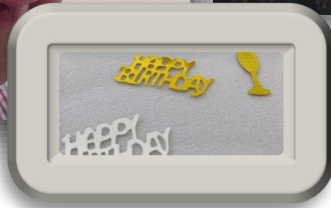


Kathy

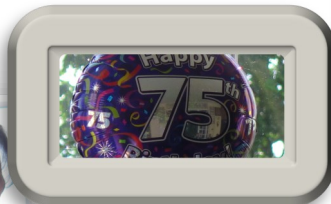


Meeting at Redfords
Bistro
8th July 2024





Monica planned a secret party to celebrate Alan's 75th birthday at Middlesex Golf Club and it was a fun afternoon





Bob



Des



Angela



Zaher



Peter



Ralph



Renee



Friends from
Southgate Leisure
Centre –Coffee Time
at Redford's Bistro
July 11th 2024

Holly



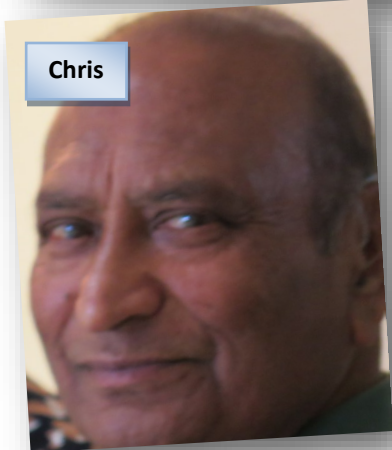
Sue



Sue



Chris



Shanty



Roy



Ruth





Photo History



I don't often interrupt my casual ramblings with current affairs but what happened today seems , to me anyway, to have far-reaching implications hence its insertion here

Major IT outages have hit industries across the world; almost 1,400 flights are cancelled and banking, healthcare and shops affected

Cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike says a "defect" in one of its software updates hit Windows operating systems. A fix has been deployed, the company says, but admits it could be some time before systems are fully back up and running.

The majority of GP surgeries in England are experiencing issues, The NHS together with trains, shops and pharmacies in the UK are experiencing problems.

Tesla and X boss Elon Musk earlier branded today's outage as the "biggest IT fail ever" - but is he right?

In terms of immediate impact on people, it's hard to think of a worse one. No other incident has affected such a broad swathe of industry and society.

The most recent mega outage was when Meta, the company that owns Facebook, WhatsApp and Instagram, was in 2021. That affected billions of social media users as well as millions of businesses.

But this CrowdStrike outage is on another level. The closest case we've had is all the way back in 2017 when two deliberate cyberattacks took hundreds of thousands of computers offline, and had a massive impact on NHS services.

But again, this incident has potentially affected many more computers and businesses around the world. The true test to see if Musk is right will be how quickly it takes for normality to return, and how much the clean-up will cost.

My immediate thought is that not just the UK but the whole world is now so reliant on everyday technology that no 'back up' plans are even considered. We (and I include myself of course) happily embrace technology and never think about 'what if'.. A great simple example is driving using Google Maps. I often realise that we have no idea whatsoever of where we are in relation to the actual topography and if it goes down for any reason we have to resort to maps. Earlier this year we needed maps in the USA as we were having sat nav problems and we were treated like 'weirdos' when trying to buy road maps. The response was inevitably "Use google Maps" This is just a simple illustration but read on as to how this 'outage effected the world immediately and without warning. Remember this was 'allegedly' a software glitch, but what would happen if it was a deliberate sabotage. How can we allow ourselves to be so reliant on this technology with so many major implications really worries me and maybe by reading this others will also think outside the box and become a little more prepared.

Around 3,340 flights have been cancelled worldwide, or about 3% of all scheduled services, according to aviation data company Cirium. This is the total number of cancellations, meaning some may not be due to the IT outage.

There are suggestions, from the wording of the CrowdStrike CEO, that this dodgy overnight update was supposed to be small.

A "content update" is how it was described. So, it wasn't a major refresh of the cyber security software. It could have been something as innocuous as the changing of a font or logo on the software design. That would potentially explain why the software wasn't as rigorously checked in the same way a major update would have been. And how it sailed through to all computers without being blocked. But it also poses huge questions to the cyber security company: how could a small update do so much damage? Shares in CrowdStrike have opened nearly 15% down on the Nasdaq stock exchange in New York. That's wiped about \$12.5bn off the value of the cyber security company.

Here's the latest published at 14:18

14:18

An insider with specialized knowledge said that even a small change of logo could potentially cause these major issues

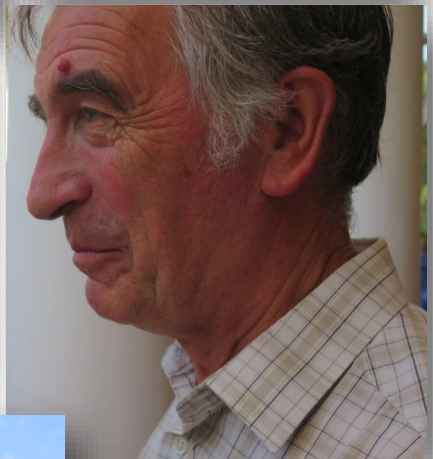
As queues stacked up at airports, TV channels went off-air and medical appointments were postponed, anti-virus firm CrowdStrike quickly became a household name when it confirmed a bug in its software was to blame for IT issues on Microsoft devices across the world.

There is a whole raft of news from around the world as to how it effected payrolls, flights, etc etc.. But I think one can see the vast effect without the minute detail



Photo History

We met Tobs and Wendy at West Dean College (Sussex) prior to going together to see Oliver at the Chichester Festival Theatre. We stayed overnight in a great B&B



Around the lovely walled gardens and greenhouses at West Dean



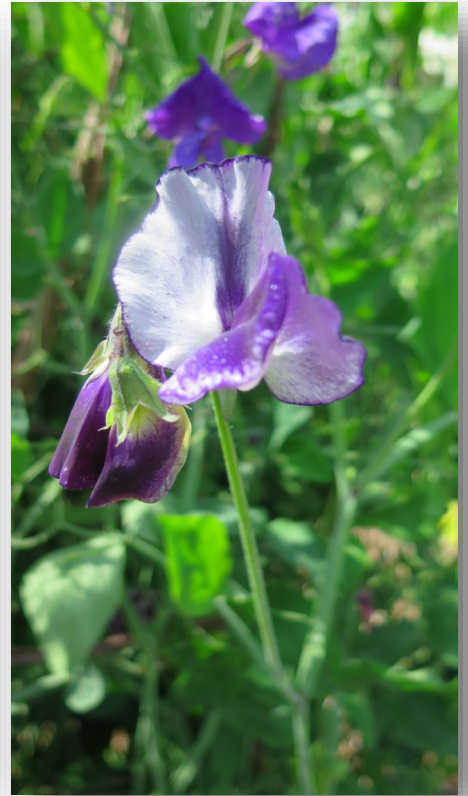
Photo History



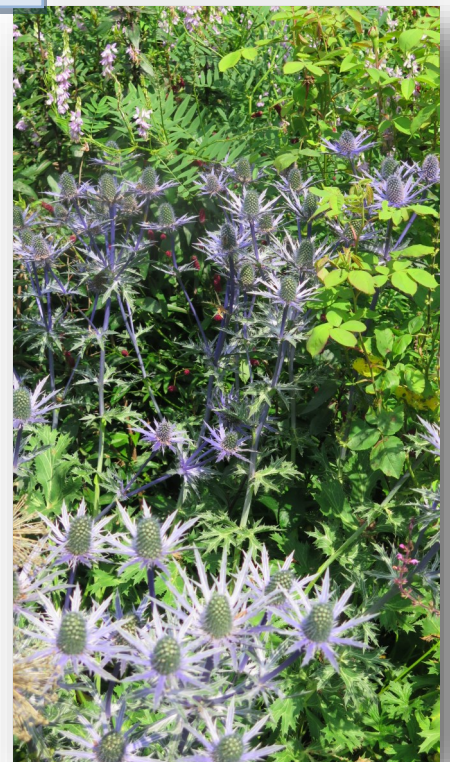
The situation of West Dean is wonderful and the hot weather allowed us to enjoy it in perfect conditions



Photo History



Around the gardens





With such a profusion of wonderful plants both in the greenhouses and in the walled garden it may seem strange to photograph these dying leaves but they somehow demanded a 'photo'





Photo History



Oliver was a really great production



The final bow





Photo History



Apuldram Manor Farm, Chichester, PO20 7ef,

+44 1243 839900 ..our delightful B&B

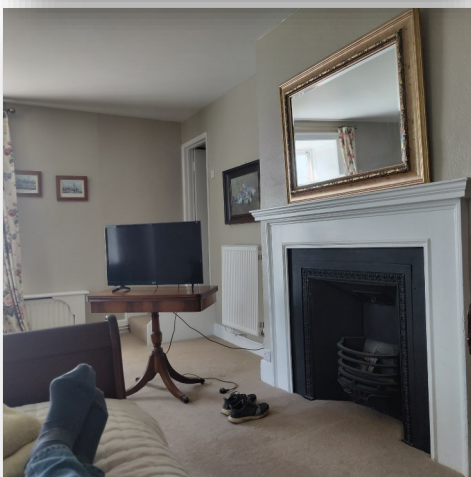
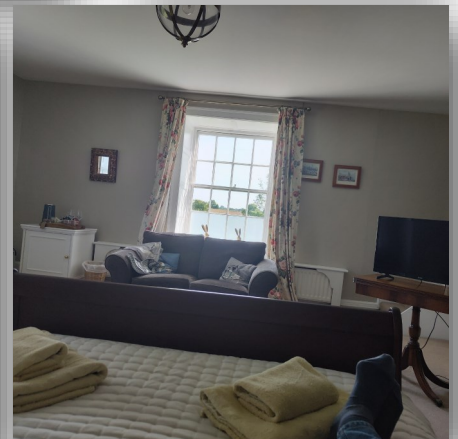




Photo History



St Mary's Church is a 'hidden-away' delightful gem

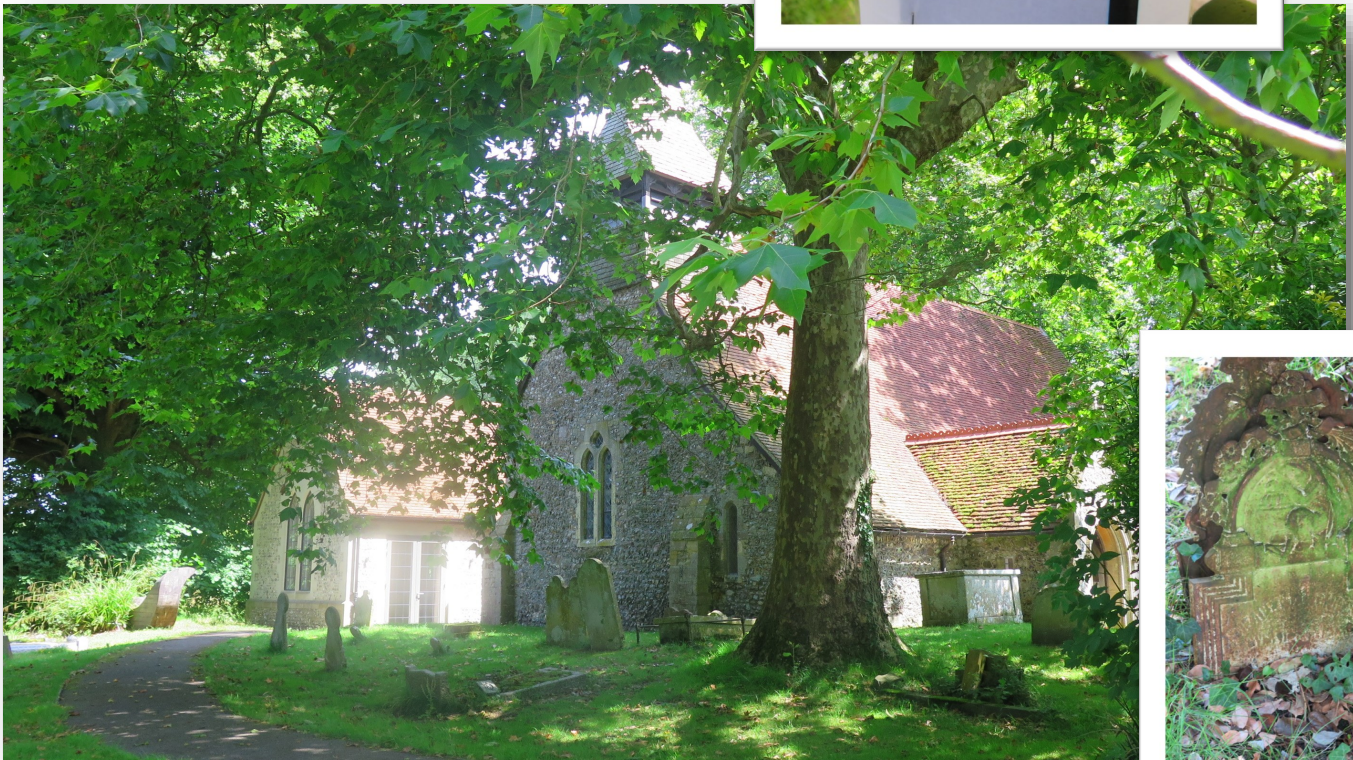




Photo History





Photo History



Walking from our B&B we went through fields full of dried crops, which intrigued us



The driver of this massive new tractor was having a break so we chatted to him



We learned a great deal. The crop was oil seed rape and the tractor driver and the other two guys were contractors, employed by the farmer (arms folded) to harvest the crop.. They were waiting for critical minutes for the



moisture content of the crop to reduce, making it more versatile to keep, store and press.



Our guess as to the cost of the combine was woefully inaccurate. We guessed around £100,000 but in reality it was almost £700,000....

...and the equipment can stand idle for up to 10 months in a year.



Photo History



Rapeseed, or oilseed rape as it is often known, is the bright yellow crop we see in the fields in the run up to summer, a sure sign that winter is almost behind us.

Earlier this year many fields across the UK and Europe turned yellow as oil seed rape came into flower. July is the time when the crop is harvested for its seeds which are rich in oil (hence the name!). Rapeseed is the third largest source of vegetable oil in the world.

Oil Seed Rape is harvested using a combine harvester. It may be 'swathed' (cut to the ground) before this point or 'dessicated' (dried out) by spraying a chemical product such as glyphosate prior to harvesting.*

Rapeseed meal, which is the byproduct of the crop, is often used as a high protein animal feed, especially for cattle, but also for pigs and poultry. Other uses for rapeseed include biodiesel and biomedical uses. The main use for this crop is however vegetable oil.

Oil seed rape is grown across Europe, Canada and Australia, as well as in the United States, China, India and Pakistan.



Some interesting facts

Lynn and I were aware that the crops we saw looked very dry and if (?) glyphosate had been used we checked on its use...This is what we found.. In the past ten years, glyphosate, a broad-spectrum herbicide, has been linked to many severe health problems. Many of the products we consume daily contain high levels of glyphosate.

Glyphosate exposure can be extremely dangerous, and eating food contaminated by this herbicide can cause many side effects. Glyphosate, a non-selective herbicide primarily used in agriculture for killing weeds and inhibiting plant growth, more often than not remains in the food we eat due to soil contamination.

Approval for glyphosate use in the EU expired in December 2023, following an extension to the renewal assessment process in 2022. **In the UK, the current expiry date is set to be December 2025,** following a three-year extension as the UK's post-Brexit pesticides regulatory regime was developed.

The UK produces around 1 million tonnes of oilseed rape each year, which is worth £595 million to the UK economy. There are 400,000 hectares of oilseed rape here in the UK, and the average yield per hectare is 3.4 tonnes. Rapeseed makes a variety of products, including edible vegetable oils for cooking, animal feed and even biodiesel.

- Rapeseed provides a key and early food source for bees and pollinators.
- Rapeseed oil is a high-quality oil with a shelf life of approximately 12 - 18 months.
- Cold-pressed rapeseed oil contains around one third of the saturated fats of olive oil and is naturally rich in omega oils, vitamin E and antioxidants.
- As well as rapeseed oil, British rapeseed can also be found in dressings such as mayonnaise, which includes high oil content,

The bi-product of the oil is rape meal, which is a nutritious dry pellet or flake and is used for feeding livestock.. The harvested by products in these fields were put back on the land to help replace valuable natural fertilisers

How is it made?

Rapeseed oil is made by pressing the seeds from the plant, oilseed rape.

Sowing

1. The seeds are sown in August by direct drilling straight into the stubble from the previous harvest .
2. The growing season is from August through to July. During this period fertiliser is put on it to help it grow and to protect it from diseases and weeds. Pigeons, slugs and flea beetle can pose a serious problem, and this has to be managed. Depending on the season and weather, the beautiful yellow flowers tend to blossom in April and May.

Harvest

1. The crop is then harvested in mid-July through to early August when the crop is dry and the pods are brittle. The crop produces tiny black seeds that are then dried, if necessary, in the grain dryer, while weed seeds are dressed out through sieves. They are then kept in the grain store until it is sold

Processing

1. The seeds are sent to the processor where they are crushed very slowly and carefully at a low temperature. This helps it keep its golden colour and distinctive flavour.
2. After it has settled, it is gently filtered. This oil is either bottled as natural oil or stored for use with other products. Some is flavoured with essential oils to produce flavoured oils and some is used as a vital ingredient in mayonnaise or salad dressings.



Photo History



After our enlightening chat with the contractors , we found that the young farmer was the son of the B&B owner where we were staying. Our walk went along the estuary and we walked from Apuldram Manor via St Mary's Church to Dell Quay . A short stroll but really great

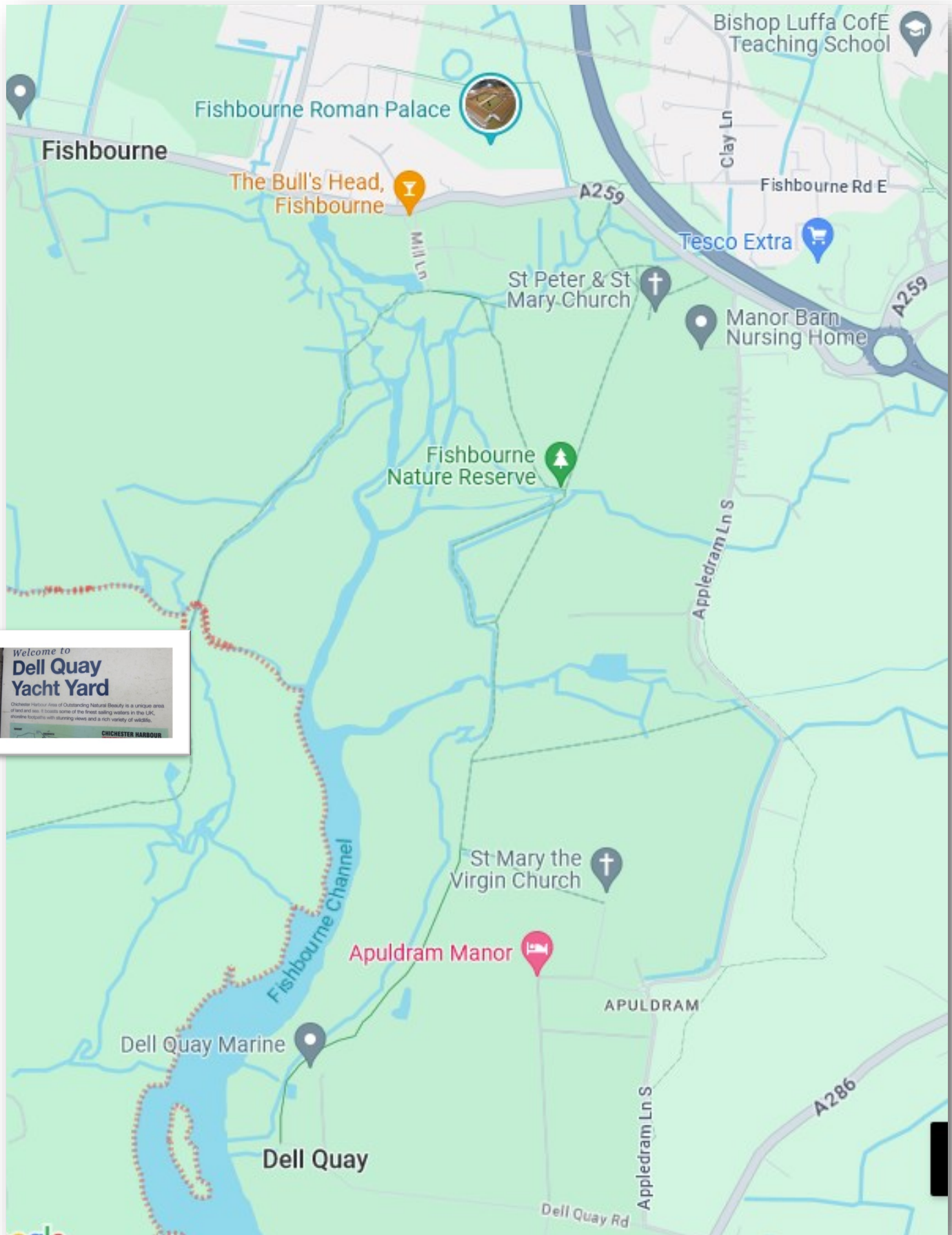




Photo History



Along the
narrow
estuary

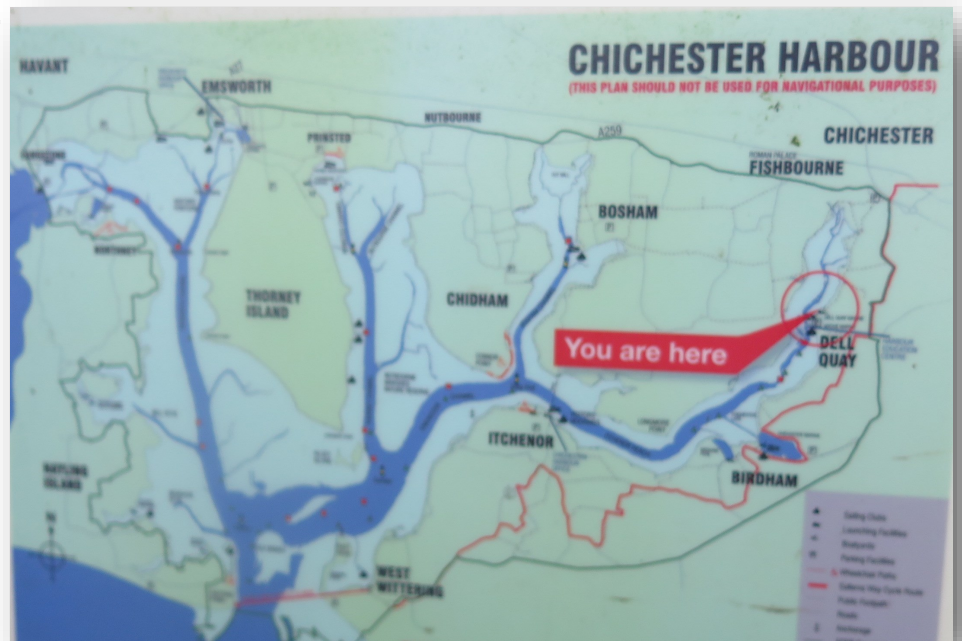




Photo History





As the tide receded it left some great colour and textures





Photo History

The Crown and Anchor at Dell Quay





I think over the years
my Photo History
volumes seem to
reflect our moods
and hopefully will
not be boring but as
the world around us
changes sometimes
it seems right to in-
terperse photos
with our thoughts

I am not a political person as any-
one reading my Volumes will have
gathered but sometimes I see the
irony of a situation that I feel
should be commented on



The International Court of Justice today said Israel had no right to sovereignty in the territories, was violating international laws against acquiring territory by force and was impeding Palestinians' right to self-determination.

Ironically today was also the 50th anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus but strangely enough I didn't see a ruling about the legality of that